

Message Text

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16

ACTION PER-03

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9048

UNCLAS RABAT 3561

FOR CA/FS/SO ROBERT HOUGHTON AND NEA/AFN STANLEY ESCUDERO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER CONCERNING ED TERZIAN

REF: UNDATED HOUGHTON LETTER.

1. AS YOU KNOW, NO ENCLOSURES WERE SENT WITH THE REFERENCED LETTER. WE NOW HAVE THE TEXT OF MR. TERZIAN'S LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN CLAUSEN, BUT I HESITATE REPLYING DIRECTLY TO THE CONGRESSMAN WITHOUT HAVING HIS LETTER AND THE INTERIM REPLY FROM H IN HAND. HOPE THAT THE FOLLOWING WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUBSTANCE FOR A FORTHCOMING REPLY FROM H TO CONGRESSMAN CLAUSEN.

2. I WAS GREATLY SURPRISED TO LEARN OF THE TREATMENT ED TERZIAN INDICATES HE RECEIVED AT THE EMBASSY WHEN HE TRIED TO SEE ME JUST AFTER MY ARRIVAL IN RABAT LAST MARCH. HIS FEELINGS STRIKE ME AS FULLY JUSTIFIED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE DESCRIBES.

3. I HAVE LONG HELD THE VIEW THAT ONE OF MY TOP PRIORITIES IS TO MEET AS MANY VISITING AMERICANS AS POSSIBLE WHO WISH TO SEE ME. IN FACT, WHEN I LEARN ABOUT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN VISITING MOROCCO WHO HAVE NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT I TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN TRYING TO CONTACT THEM TO SEE IF WE CAN BE HELPFUL. IN THE CASE OF MR. TERZIAN'S VISIT TO RABAT, I WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT HE TRIED TO SEE ME.

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IF I HAD KNOWN, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO QUESTION THAT

WE WOULD HAVE MANAGED TO GET-TOGETHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE OFFICE. UNLESS I AM PHYSICALLY ABSENT FROM THE CITY, THERE IS ALWAYS TIME TO SAY HELLO TO A VISITING AMERICAN. UNFORTUNATELY, THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION I ORDERED INTO MR. TERZIAN'S STATEMENTS HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, WHO WERE HERE AT THE TIME AND HAVE NOT SINCE BEEN TRANSFERRED, DO NOT RECALL IT. THE MARINE GUARD ON DUTY AT THE TIME, WHO SEES MANY VISITORS EACH DAY, VAGUELY REMEMBERS MR. TERZIAN COMING TO THE EMBASSY, BUT HAS NO DETAILS ON WHAT MAY HAVE TRANSPIRED. I MIGHT ADD HERE THAT DURING THE FIRST TWO OR THREE WEEKS AFTER MY ARRIVAL, THERE WERE TWO OR THREE OTHER CASES WHERE UNBEKNOWNST TO ME, PEOPLE HAD ASKED TO SEE ME AND WERE TOLD I WAS NOT AVAILABLE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE SITUATION HAS LONG SINCE BEEN CORRECTED.

4. I HOPE THAT THE FOREGOING WILL ASSURE BOTH CONGRESSMAN CLAUSEN AND MR. TERZIAN WHERE I STAND ON THE QUESTION OF SEEING MY FELLOW CITIZENS. IN CLOSING, JUST LET ME SAY THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MR. TERZIAN SHOULD HE DECIDE TO PAY ANOTHER VISIT TO THIS WONDERFUL COUNTRY. ANDERSON

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